

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Language and Area School

DATE: 10 December 1958

FROM : Deputy Chief, Area Training

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

None

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

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2. Italy - Basic Country Survey #1 was completed by 8 of the 10 students enrolled. At the outset this group compared quite unfavorably with the average survey classes we have had, in respect to previous training and experience on the area and topics concerned. In fact, it was as a whole unresponsive in the first meetings. This group's excellent progress, however, was amply demonstrated in both written and oral work, and we give priority to this factor of the individual's own progress during the course, rather than his ability to

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meet any arbitrary standards of area knowledge at the end. This class, like some others in past, stressed the importance of their own participation in class discussion on points raised in lectures, as indispensable to a confident understanding of the material. Again, however, the students complained unanimously of a severe lack of time to study in view of their continuing responsibility to carry their full job assignment while the course was in progress. Despite our best efforts to sell the reasonable assumption that such training is a privilege and necessarily entails sacrifices of normal leisure time and perhaps some other activities, we are convinced that these part-time courses are far from achieving their full potential because of inadequate preparation by students. [redacted] support of this course was outstanding; [redacted] made three presentations and was at his best on the final panel, on Italy's key contemporary problems.

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3. [redacted] 25X1  
the Studies in Intelligence Board was interested in an article in the general field of the applicability of principles of cultural anthropology to intelligence operations needs. It was agreed [redacted] the logical choice to do the article, but that he would not be ready to do so until he is fully cleared, learns more about our business, and has completed at least one running of the American Overseas Seminar.

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4. Oral commitments for enrollment in our prospective senior-level seminar have now reached 15, and we shall notify R/TR that this will be the maximum accepted.

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